

HUDSON
RIVER
COMMON
BRICK





Designed by Robert Josephy. Reproduction and printing by the Knudsen Process..The cover illustration is a faithful rendering of size and color, photographed direct from Hudson River bricks by the Knudsen color camera. All other photographs by Samuel H. Gottscho.

HUDSON RIVER COMMON BRICK

Stretched along the banks of the historic Hudson River is one of the oldest industries of America, the Hudson River Brick Industry. Started on the estates of Rensselaer, near Albany, in 1627, it has remained for 300 years one of the major river industries. The fortunate location of large deposits of clay on the bank of this river that flows into the heart of New York City gave New York builders at their very doorstep an unlimited supply of easily distributed, therefore low cost, brick. Consequently, New York City is in a large measure built with this brick.

Originally the only brick available to New York City, it is now one of dozens of types shipped in from all parts of the country. The bulk of the work, however, is still done with this typical Knickerbocker product. Changed but little in appearance, it still has that easy irregularity that gave charm to our older Colonial structures.

Recently completed structures with Hudson River Brick are illustrated herein. The effects created are the result of using brick naturally. The irregularities of shape, texture and color are characteristic of the product, and no attempt should be made to eliminate them. If uniform color and shape are desired, a different type of brick should be specified. Such bricks are not produced locally.

BRICK MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

J. H. HANSEN, *Executive Secretary*

2721 Grand Central Terminal, New York

Murray Hill 9-0270



Midland Gardens, Bronxville, N. Y. Kenneth B. Norton, Architect

COLOR has always been one of the attractive features of brick masonry. There are very few building materials that combine this aesthetic property with the valuable engineering properties of strength and durability.

The raw material from which brick are made as a rule burns to the color that is usually associated with a particular brand. In this sense it might be said that color is an accident of the material. This is not wholly true, however, since many manufacturers introduce a variation in the color, either by mixtures of various raw materials in the body of the unit, or by surface treatment before burning. Others, such as Hudson River manufacturers, concentrating on producing a suitable and low cost product, confine their color treatments in the main to one general effect in order that they may be interchanged and duplicated by almost any producer on the river.

This is done by burning into the face of the brick, along with the molding sand, some coloring compound. This may be light or dark, depending upon prevailing long term demand of the construction industry.

For success of appropriate coloring in a heavy construction material, the color should give some indication of the nature of the material. For this reason, little attempt is made to smooth out the color of Hudson River Brick. The blotches and flashes appearing on almost all of them are the natural result of the tremendous heat they have been subjected to and in a sense, therefore, highly appropriate. If they were all eliminated and one uniform color were obtained, it would approach the cold finish of a painted brick, which is not what the bulk of the work demands.

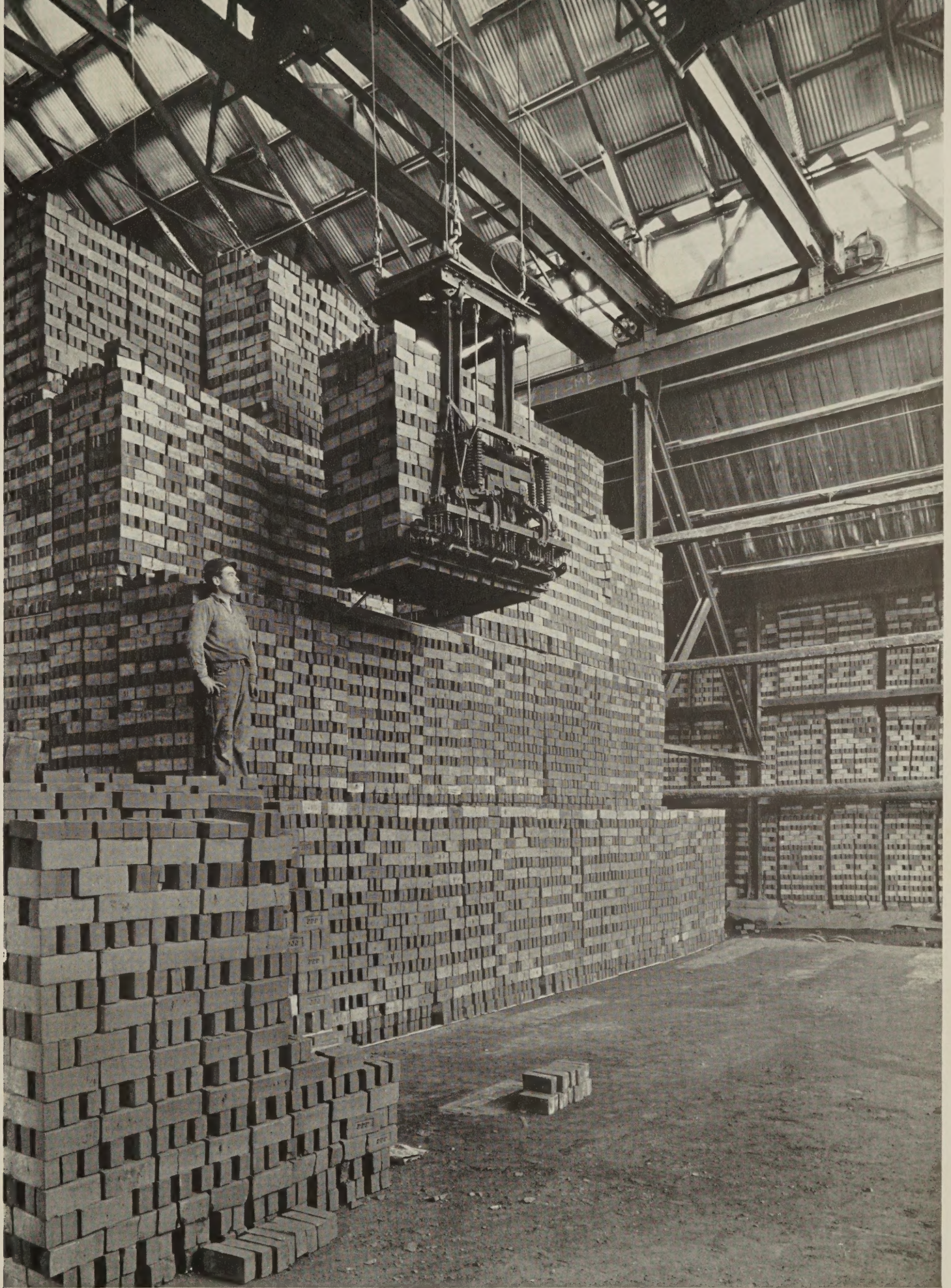
When thinking of color in bricks one should bear in mind that mortar joints account for 25 to 30 per cent of the surface of a brick wall. Obviously, then, the color of the brick wall may be considerably different than the color of brick. Some indication of the effect of mortar joints on color is illustrated in the back of this book.



Readers' Digest Building. James C. Mackenzie, F.A.I.A., Architect

To fulfill its obvious task of supplying a durable economical building material to build up the largest city in the world the Hudson River Brick industry resorted to mass production, handling and shipping at a very early date.

The four views following show:—How Hudson River Brick are handled inside the plant, 1500 at a time; the tremendous clay banks worked by electric shovels and narrow gauge railroad; the loading of a barge with 500M brick; and the scove kiln. The two million brick in this kiln were red hot seven days before this photograph was taken, after being fired for six days.



Storing Hudson River Brick







Loading a barge

Tearing down a kiln



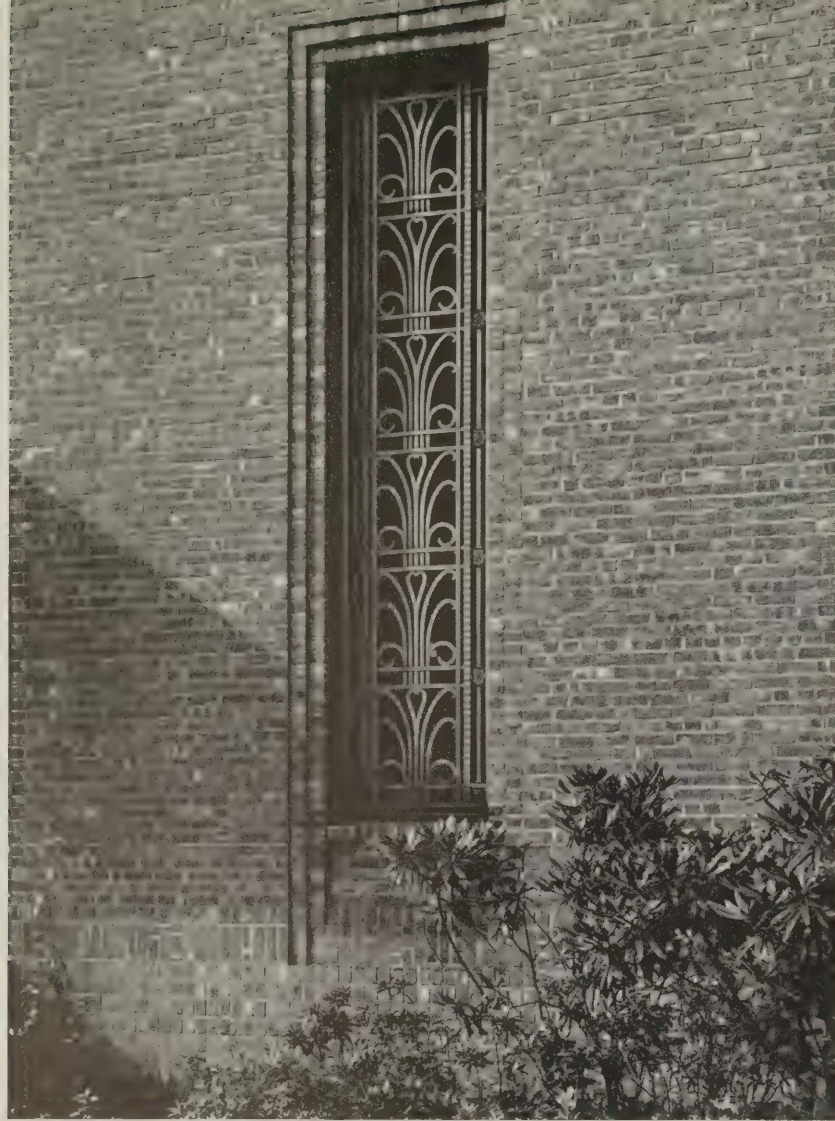


Parkchester housing development, by the Board of Design of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York City. (See later photograph.)



A group of houses in Stamford, Conn. W. Stuart
Thompson, Architect, 19 West 44 St., New York





A fine example of brick masses.
Hayden Planetarium, New York.
Trowbridge and Livingston, Archi-
tects, 101 Park Ave., New York





Colonial Village, Fleetwood, N. Y. Sibley and Fetherston, Architects, 205 East 42 St., New York





Powelton Country Club, Newburgh, N. Y. Whitewashed. Francis L. Abreu, Architect





Myron J. Michael School, Kingston, N. Y. Teller and Halverson, Architects, Kingston





Interlaken Garden Apartments, Eastchester, N. Y. DeYoung and Moscowitz, Architects, 205 East 42 St., New York. Part of the Brick Group of 526 family dwellings



Linden House, Riverdale-on-Hudson, N. Y. Edward Weck, Architect, Riverdale





Buttressing Variations. Above: Queens Asphalt Plant, N. Y. C. Frank S. Parker, Architect, 533 West 57 St., New York. Right: Red Hook Play Center. Courtesy of the New York City Park Department







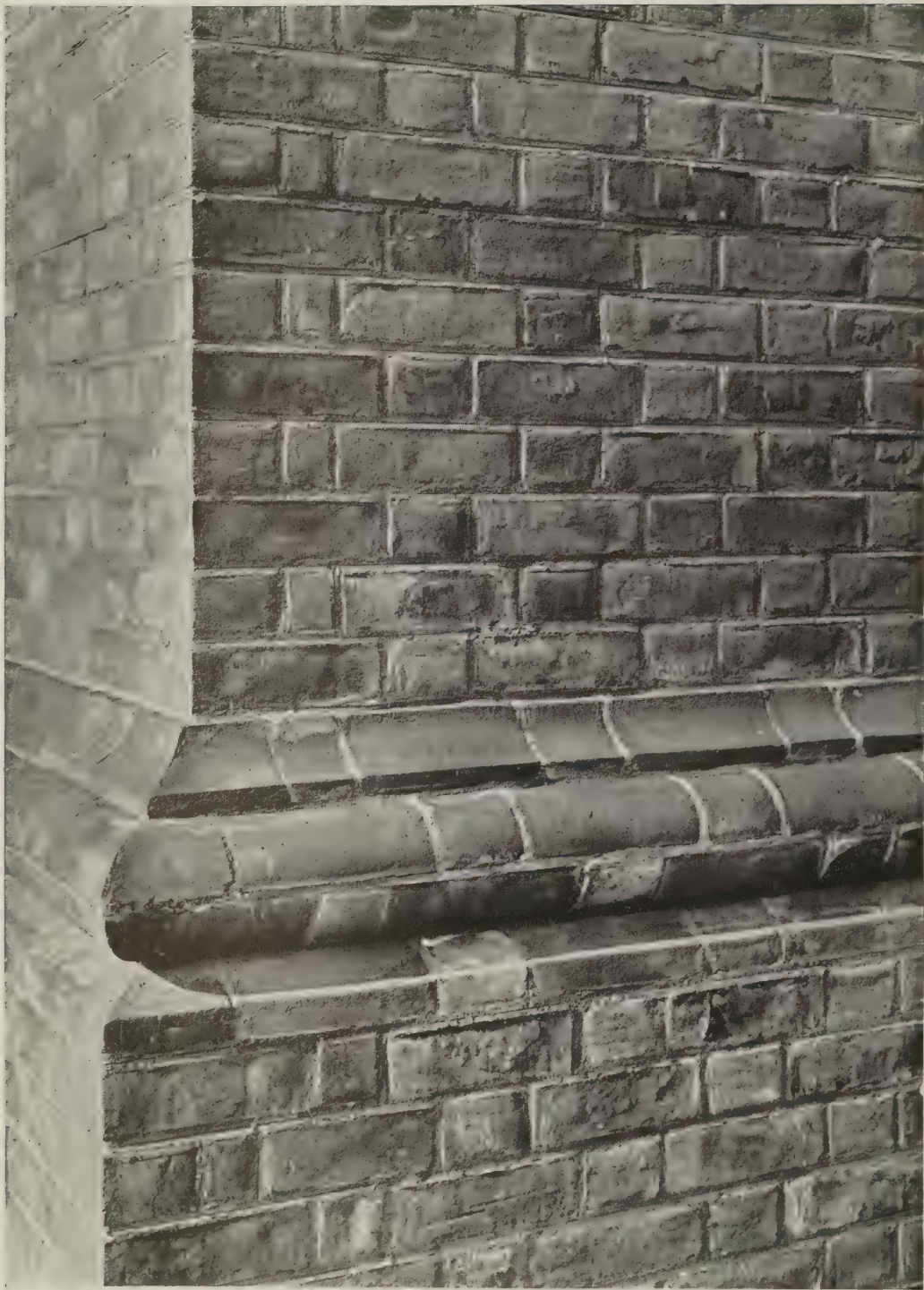
Midland Gardens, Bronxville, N. Y. Kenneth B. Norton, Architect, 370 Lexington Ave., New York



Regency Park, Jamaica, N. Y. Rosario Candela, Architect, 19 East 53 St., New York

Red Hook Houses, Brooklyn. One of the larger housing developments by the New York City Housing Authority. Red Hook Project Associated Architects: Alfred Easton Poor, *Chief Architect*, William F. Dominick, William I. Hohauser, Electus D. Litchfield, W. T. McCarthy, Jacob Moscowitz and Edwin J. Robin, *Associated Architects*

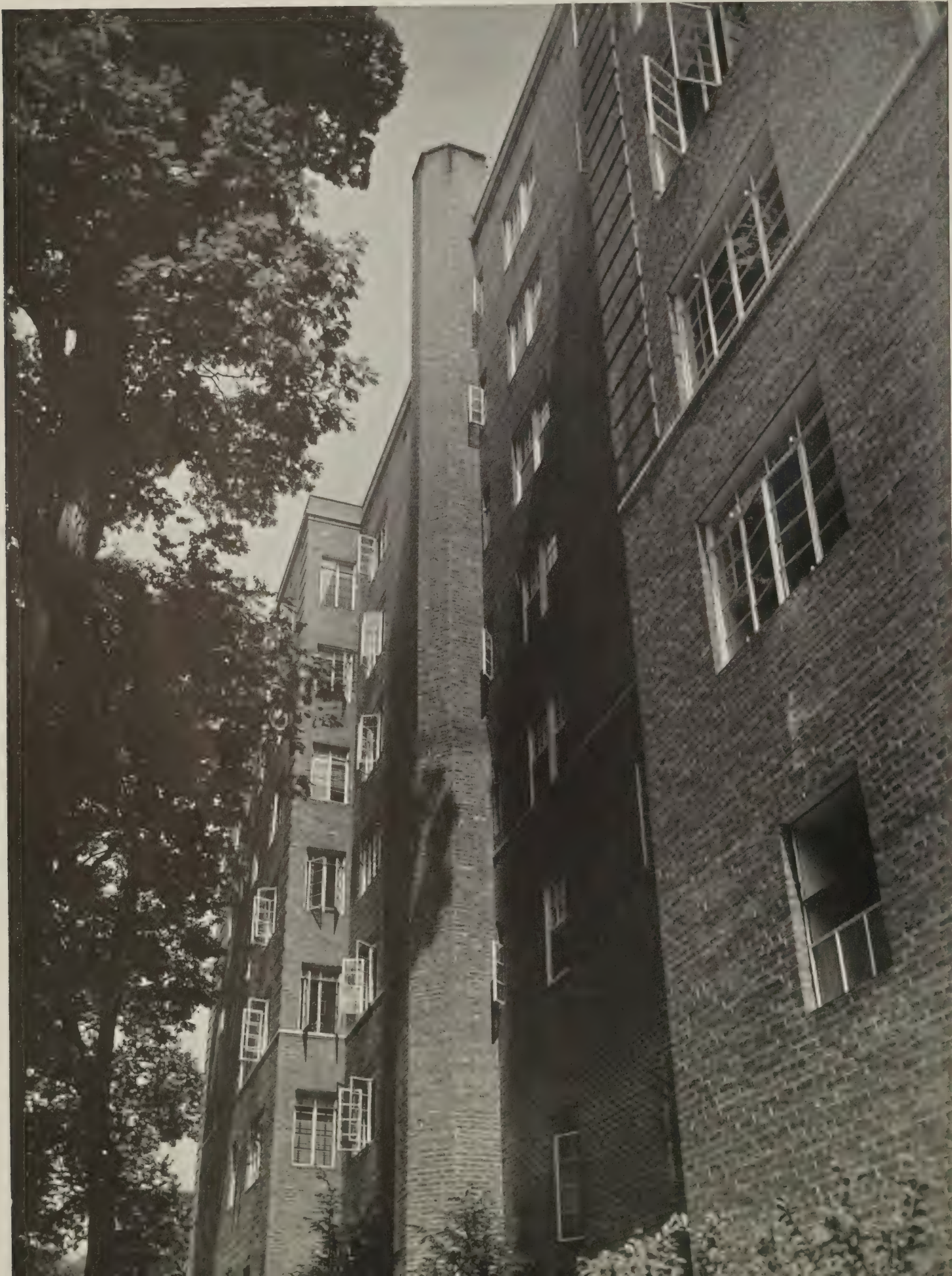






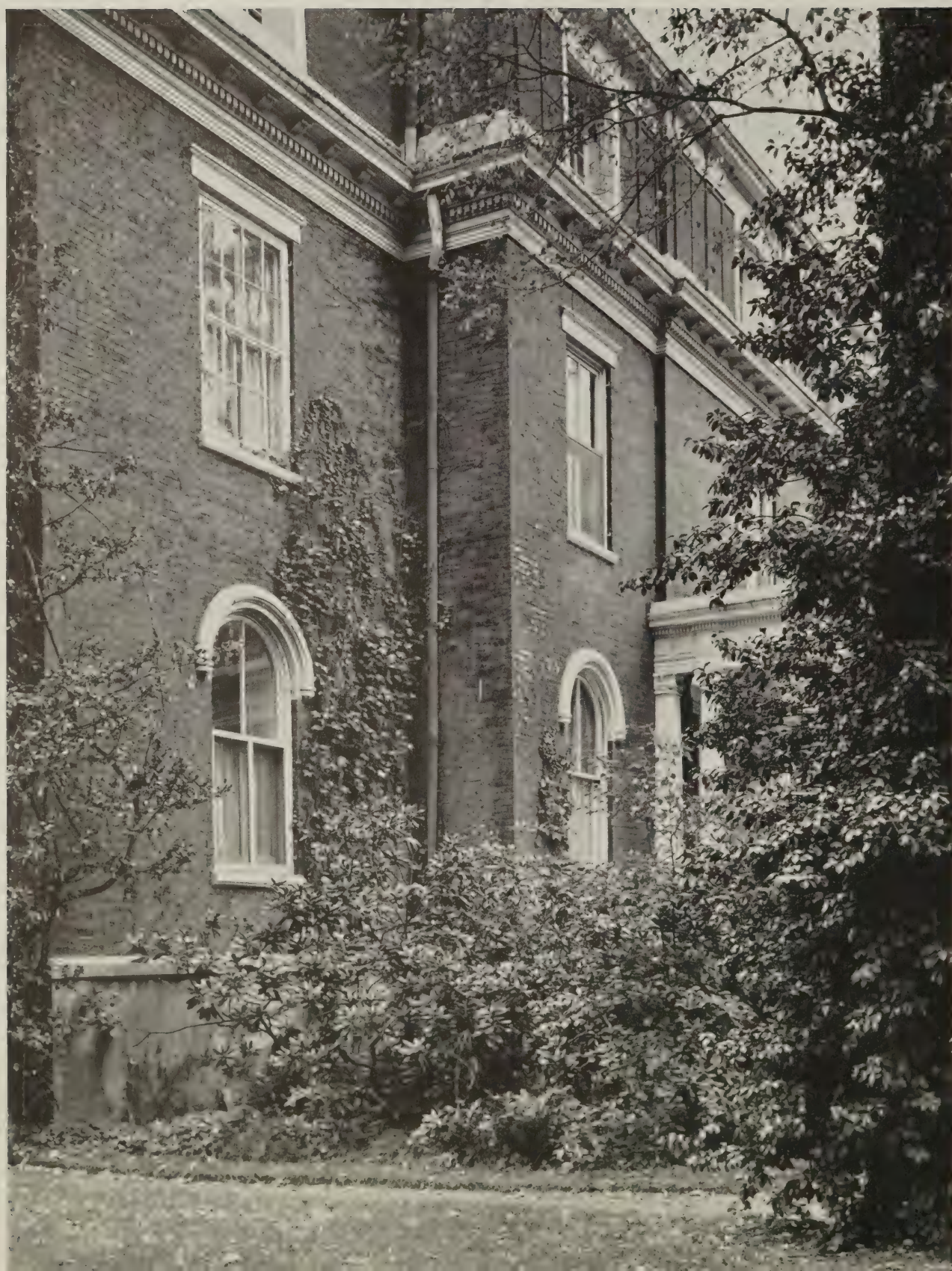
Readers' Digest building, near Chappaqua, N. Y. James C. Mackenzie, F.A.I.A. Architect, 5 East 57 St., New York. This American Colonial structure was built with a special size Hudson River Brick, as developed by the Architect with the manufacturer, as well as three different shades in the coloring. The special brick for the ornamental work was carefully dimensioned on the architect's drafting board before construction was started, so that each piece would fall into place with the minimum of job difficulties

Georgian Court, Bronxville, N. Y. J. M. Felson, Architect, 250 West 57 St., New York. Chimney detail





Stouffer's Restaurant, 45 Street and Fifth Ave., N. Y. C. Dwight James Baum, Architect,
Waldo Ave. and 244 St., New York





A two hundred year old house, Grasmere, the home of Mrs. R. Havemeyer, Rhinebeck, N. Y. Throughout the Hudson River Valley are many old structures in excellent condition. The popular belief is that the bricks used were shipped in from Europe. The evidence and records, however, indicate that the bricks were made in the locality, and frequently on the building site



Careful workmanship on the facade makes it appear that an entirely different type of brick was used. It's the same brick. *Below:* Few materials offer the designer as much freedom in the use of irregular or curved lines as brick masonry





Kew Gardens Hills, Queens, New York City. Richard Boring Snow and George Titus, Architects. A splendid example of large scale two-story house development; part of 423 dwelling units



Parkchester, Bronx, New York City. Board of Design: Gilmore D. Clarke, Town Planner, Irwin Claven, Architect, Robert W. Dowling, Builder, Andrew J. Eken, Builder, George Gove, Owner's Representative, Henry C. Meyer, Jr., Engineer, Richard H. Shreve, Architectural Chairman. For 12,273 families, it is the largest project of its kind. Over one hundred million special size and colored Hudson River Brick were required to make up its solid brick walls

GOOD PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUYING AND USING HUDSON RIVER BRICK

1. Start right by using the correct specification. If this brick is desired, specify in one of the following ways:
 - a. "Grade B, A.S.T.M. Specification C62-30."
 - b. "Grade M, Federal Specification SS-B-656."
 - c. "Hard Burned Hudson River Brick."

The use of other specification or phrases frequently makes it impossible for a manufacturer to bid on the work, thus delaying the job until the specifications are changed.

2. Hudson River Brick should be wet when laid. It is practically impossible to get them too wet. A wet brick may appear dry after being exposed to the sun for a few minutes, but it will qualify as a wet brick for several hours.
3. To avoid disfiguring efflorescence, test mortar in advance and eliminate brands of mortar materials that produce efflorescence during the test. The same procedure should be followed with the brick, although brick are seldom found to be the source of the efflorescing salts. Then flash all horizontal surfaces and under all sills and copings. Design and workmanship determine the success of masonry construction.



Readers' Digest Building, Detail of Windows. James C. Mackenzie, F.A.I.A., Architect

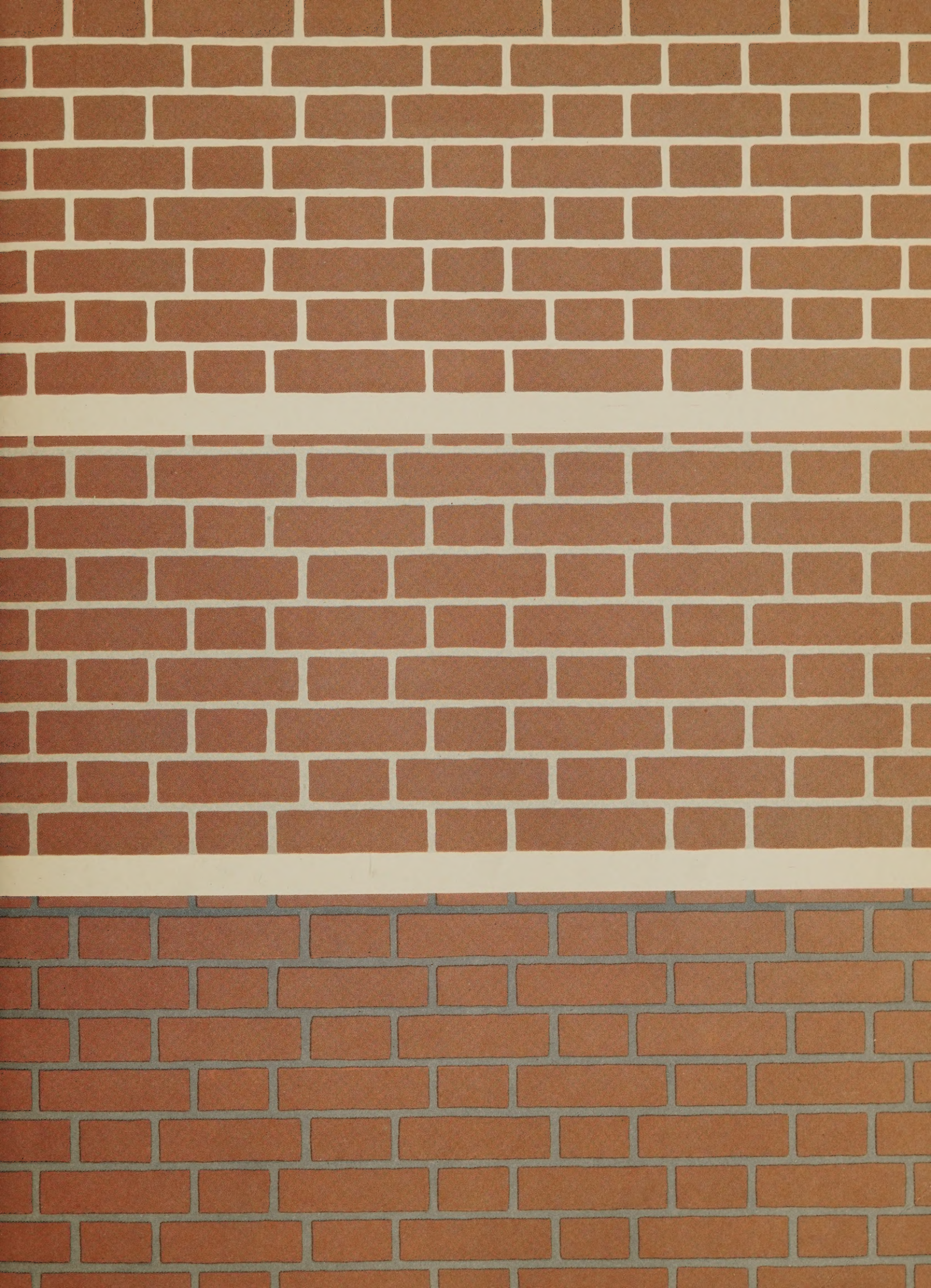


One of a group of houses in Stamford, Connecticut. W. Stuart Thompson, Architect

If a particular shade or coloring is desired, a composition of bricks and mortar should be studied, rather than the bricks alone. On the opposite page there is reproduced on the same colored background the outlines of mortar joints in three colors.

When viewed at close range, the background, or the color representing the brick, will appear darker with the lighter mortar. When viewed from a distance, however, and especially through half closed eyes, an effect is obtained which is more nearly that surrounding the wall of a building. It will be noted that at a distance the lighter mortar makes the composition appear distinctly lighter, and the opposite is true with the darker mortar.

Remember that the color of the brick is identical in all three illustrations.



MANUFACTURERS OF HUDSON RIVER COMMON BRICK

Brand on brick

BRIGHAM BROTHERS, <i>Kingston</i>	BRIGHAM
DENNING'S PT. BRICK WORKS, <i>Beacon</i>	D P B W
THE HUTTON COMPANY, <i>Kingston</i>	HUTTON
THE JOVA BRICK WORKS, <i>Roseton</i>	J J J
POWELL & MINNOCK BRICK WORKS, <i>Coeymans</i>	P & M
ROAH HOOK BRICK CO., <i>Coeymans</i>	ROAH HOOK
ROSE BROTHERS, <i>Kingston</i>	ROSE BROS
ROSETON BRICK CORP., <i>Roseton</i>	ROSE
A. S. STAPLES, <i>Kingston</i>	MALDEN
SUTTON & SUDERLEY BRICK CO., <i>Coeymans</i>	S S B CO
THE TERRY BROTHERS CO., <i>Kingston</i>	TERRY



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